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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – April 19, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of History, Seminar Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:10pm.

Roll Call	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Francesca Alonso		X
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar	X	
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Lilia B. Limon		X
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Belinda Luna		X
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Susan Novick	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez		X
	Gustavo Reveles		X
	Abel Saucedo	X	
	Jane B. Thomas	X	

Others present: Sean McGlynn, Michael Tomor, Julia Bussinger, Barbara Angus, Misty Castaneda and Isela Ocegueda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** Isela Ocegueda, in attendance to observe.

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes.** Marina Monsisvais moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting on February 16, 2012, as presented. Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Art Museum Reports.** Michael Tomor began by mentioning summer classes; there will be 57 different art classes offered. A \$10,000 grant was received from the MP Morgan Chase Foundation to offer scholarships to children ages 6-17 who are in need of help with exposure to the arts or assistance with payment for classes. All classes are showcased online at www.elpasoartmuseum.org. Michael continued on to provide a brief update on staffing. The museum currently has 3 vacancies for a Senior Education Curator, an operations person and a part-time education clerk. Received a \$20,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant for outreach during the Golden Age exhibition, which will run from September 16th through January 8th. The grant was specifically designed to engage with El Paso Pro-Musica and the El Paso Opera. On May 6th, the Algur H. Meadows Library will open as a public library. There will be presentations by Sean McGlynn, Director of Museums and Cultural Affairs; Dionne Mack-Harvin, Director of El Paso Public Libraries; Adrian Morales, the new librarian and Michael as the Director of the El Paso Museum of Art. There are over 4,000 books in the new library, which is non-lending and non-circulating, but open to the public. Book donations are being accepted and final touches are being put on the collection management policy. It is not rigid, but allows the museum to collect responsibly. It follows the focus of collecting books and exhibition catalogs with ISBN numbers to support the mission of educating the public about the art of Mexico, Europe and the United States. Michael closed by explaining that community vetting groups are being put together for the education, curatorial and development departments, the library, the store and building maintenance. Board members were invited to join the committees if they wish to do so.

Estrella Escobar expressed concern over the staffing of the groups, and Sean McGlynn replied that he would double-check with legal on the threshold level per the Open Meetings Act. Michael further clarified that there will only be 3 meetings each year, unless a special meeting needs to be called. Jeannine Kennedy asked about attendance and Michael explained that attendance was approximately 40% higher in February than it was the year before, and 25% higher in March. The museum is now seeing 3-5 school tours a day, which will continue through the third week of May.

5. Discussion and Action on Museum Acquisitions. Michael Tomor presented 3 works by David Taylor from the James Kelly Gallery and 1 by Loren Janzen from Stanlee and Gerald Rubin that were selected by the Acquisitions Committee for recommendation as proposed additions to the Art Museum's permanent collection. In addition, there were 24 offset lithographs by Tom Lea from Louise Klein that were not accepted as an acquisition, but to the education collection instead. Images were provided for review and consideration via a PowerPoint slideshow and signature pages were provided for review and consideration (attached as part of these minutes). Chair requested a motion to accept the items. Katherine Brennan so moved; Estrella Escobar seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

Julia Bussinger began by mentioning there were 2 acquisitions approved by the Accessions Committee, one each for the History Museum and Archaeology Museum. She continued by introducing Barbara Angus, who is the History Museum curator and temporarily oversees curatorial activities at the Archaeology Museum as well. Barbara presented the first item for the History Museum, an identification ribbon for the 1902 Midwinter Carnival. The second item, for the Archaeology Museum, was a silver and turquoise "bear claw" necklace made by Navajo artist Milton Tsosie. Images were provided for review and consideration via a PowerPoint slideshow and signature pages were provided for review and consideration (attached as part of these minutes). Chair requested a motion to accept the items. Susan Novick so moved; Marina Monsivais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

6. History and Archaeology Museum Reports. Julia Bussinger began by mentioning that the Archaeology Museum's collection management is being handled by a consultant who has photographed, entered and updated 837 artifacts in the last 4 weeks. Efforts are concentrated on what the museum has in terms of documentation and files so that there is a clear picture of the museum's collection. The recruitment for a curator is in progress and whoever is selected will have an excellent staff. The Poppy Festival, with indoor and outdoor exhibits, was very well attended with more than 6000 people at the event. A photography exhibit titled 'Look Close See Far, A Cultural Portrait of the Maya' is coming in June. For the History Museum, Julia reported on 2 great exhibits that opened since the last board meeting, 'Traces: A Visual Record of the Deconstruction of the Asarco Smelter', a very nostalgic topic for El Pasoans, and 'Neighborhoods and Shared Memories', which may be the best exhibit that ever happened to the museum. She also expressed a desire to prolong the life of the 'Healing Hands & Healing Ways: Traditional Medicine in the Borderlands' exhibit. Mentioned that 116 women from all over Texas will be in town for Leadership Texas 2012, which the History Museum is hosting on Sunday, April 22nd. Also, May 18th is International Museum Day, and the entire week will be dedicated to the museums with many activities in place for the public to take part in. Julia mentioned that special fundraising activities are coming up to raise money for the Ysleta Mission Door, which will be a part of the next Wall of Giants, dedicated to the mission and its people. The fundraiser will be called 'Eat and Drink Your Exhibit'.

7. Discussion on Americans for the Arts Email Membership. Sean McGlynn explained to board members that as a department, we are members of Americans For The Arts. As a benefit, board members are eligible to receive their email updates. Sean further explained that board members should see Misty if they would like to opt-in for this opportunity.

8. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Susan Novick moved to adjourn; Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for May 17, 2012.

Approved for content by:
William Moody, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department